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April 2, 1969

RECEIVED
APR 7 1969
TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN
BY *[Signature]*

Mr. Paul Costello
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Paul:

Just a note to thank you for arranging for President Nixon to send a telegram to Rear Admiral Donald Baxter MacMillan (USNR-Ret) Easter Sunday, April 6, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Admiral Richard Peary's discovery of the North Pole. Admiral Mac, now 94 and retired to his home at 473 Commercial Street, Provincetown, Massachusetts, is the sole survivor of that historic expedition.

You'll be pleased to know that telegrams and citations are also being sent by Secretary of the Navy Chafee, Secretary of Transportation Volpe, Governor Sargeant of Massachusetts, Senators Kennedy and Brooke, Congressman Hastings Keith, the Apollo 11 Astronauts, Bowdoin College, the National Geographic Society, the Explorers Club, the Schooner Bowdoin Society, Lowell Thomas, and the Selectmen of Provincetown. The USNAR Squadron at NAS South Weymouth also hopes to perform an unofficial fly-over to salute Admiral Mac.

Your kind efforts were instrumental in making this salute to this distinguished Arctic explorer possible and I want to extend my sincere thanks.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Larry Baker
Vice President

LJB:vw

P. S. Sincere thanks for your help, too.

[Signature]
Larry Baker

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April 7, 1969

Mr. Robert Hancock
Town Manager
Town Hall
Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657

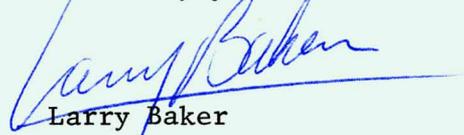
Dear Mr. Hancock:

Enclosed is a copy of the fine news feature which The New York Times published about Rear Admiral Donald Baxter MacMillan today. In addition to The Times, both the Associated Press and United Press International newswires filed stories on Admiral Mac, and Lowell Thomas is broadcasting a salute to him on his CBS Radio Network show tonight.

The many wires and letters he received made the 60th anniversary of Admiral Peary's discovery of the North Pole a memorable day for this distinguished American who is the last survivor of that historic expedition.

Thanks for the part you played in making Admiral "Mac" aware that his achievements are well remembered.

Sincerely yours,


Larry Baker
Vice President

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RECEIVED

APR 9 1969

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN
BY L.C.

The Last Survivor of Peary's Expedition to the North Pole

Donald Baxter MacMillan

By JOHN H. FENTON

Special to The New York Times

PROVINCETOWN, Mass.,

April 6—Still erect as a stanchion on a schooner's fo'c'sle, Rear Adm. Donald B. MacMillan, retired, "paced the deck" as usual today and reflected on the expedition that discovered the North Pole on this date 60 years ago. On learning that four Britons had

reached the Pole by dog sledge yesterday with the aid of air drops of medical supplies and mail, the

doughty admiral commented: "It had to be that way; they couldn't possibly take enough food on one sledge. But it's great."

The Britons, according to The Sunday Times of London, were the first expedition to reach the Pole by sledge since Rear Adm. Robert E. Peary led a party there in 1909. Last year a four-man American-Canadian team using snowmobiles reached the pole in 44 days.

Now 94 years old, "Mac," as oldtimers in Provincetown call him, is the last survivor of the Peary expedition.

Admiral MacMillan's deck these days is the street-floor porch of his shipshape home on the ocean side of Commercial Street in this seafaring village at the tip of Cape Cod. He paces it daily.

The comfortable living room in the MacMillan home-stead, which once served as a barracks for Harvard student soldiers in the Civil War, still has a seagoing atmosphere.

Navigational Aids

There are such navigational aids as a barometer, an anemometer and a revolving globe. And over the whitewashed brick fireplace is an enlarged photograph taken by Mac of a polar bear and three of her cubs on an ice floe.

Although his seaman's deep blue eyes are clouded by glaucoma and cataracts, Admiral MacMillan's head is cocked toward the broad Atlantic Ocean on which he sailed northward during 27 Arctic expeditions. He still hears reasonably well and is

as alert as he was on his last sea trip north in 1954.

Admiral MacMillan never set foot on the North Pole. But he did fly over it, in the predawn of the space age, in 1957, with three other members of the Arctic Brotherhood, Sir Hubert Wilkins, Peter Fruechen and Col. Bernt Balchen.

Frozen feet forced Admiral MacMillan to drop out in the final push to the pole in 1909. But he managed to hobble back along the trail to set up caches of supplies for the return trip of the six men who made the goal.

6 Reached Pole

With Admiral Peary on his historic discovery were Matthew Henson, an American Negro who accompanied Admiral Peary on six expeditions, and four Eskimos.

The first word Admiral MacMillan received of the success of the expedition was contained in a letter he received from Admiral Peary several weeks later. In it, the explorer commented, "Northern trip entirely satisfactory."

Donald Baxter MacMillan was born in Provincetown, Nov. 10, 1874. His father, a fishing captain, was lost at sea when the boy was 9. The youngster, known then in the Provincetown Scottish manner as Danny Baxter, later went to live in Maine with an older married sister.

After working his way through Bowdoin College, from which he graduated in 1898, he became a teacher. He still is officially on leave from Worcester (Mass.) Academy.

The paths of the young MacMillan and Peary first crossed in 1900, when the naval officer, then a commander, entered his son, Robert Jr., in a summer camp run by Mr. MacMillan in Maine.

Wife Reads Telegrams

Admiral MacMillan's wife, Miriam, who eventually accompanied him on nine Arctic expeditions, was five years old when the North Pole was discovered. He was 60 when they were married. Once asked why he remained a bachelor for so many years,

he replied: "Just never had the time before."

Today, Mrs. MacMillan read the admiral the scores of messages he received.

From the weekend White House at Key Biscayne, Fla., President Nixon sent this message:

"I am proud to join the many Americans who are one in admiration for you. Your courageous spirit of adventure will live forever to inspire endless new generations. On this, the 60th anniversary of the successful Peary North Pole Expedition, I want you to know you have my personal respect for the intrepid feat that earned you the world's esteem."

The Apollo 11 astronauts, who are scheduled to land on the moon, added their congratulations, asserting that "what you did represented a triumph of a human mind, body and spirit over the harshest and most hostile environment here on our planet earth."

The message was signed by Neil A. Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr.

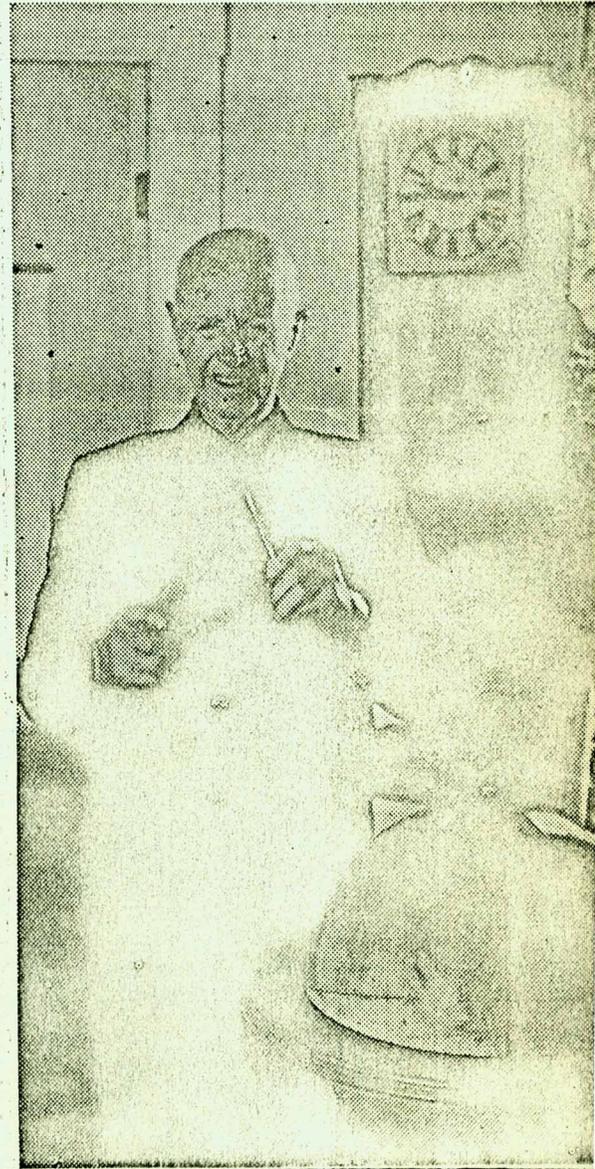
Polar Museum Set Up

A polar museum in honor of Admirals MacMillan and Peary, also a Bowdoin alumnus, has been established at the college on the Brunswick, Me., campus. Many of the artifacts of the MacMillan expeditions have already been removed from the home here to the museum for safer keeping. Other memorabilia are in the Provincetown Museum, maintained at the foot of the Pilgrim Memorial here by the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association.

One of the admiral's last public appearances was in 1967, when he received the Bradford Washburn Award of the Boston Museum of Science as "the nation's most distinguished living Arctic explorer."

Among the messages he received that day was one from Capt. Alan B. Shepard Jr. of Derry, N.H., the nation's first astronaut, announcing that there was space available for a trip to the moon and asking him, "Are you available?"

"Damn right," said Mac in an aside to those near him.



Ted Polumbaum for The New York Times

Sixty years ago his feet were freezing